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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/059,426	01/31/2002	Akihiko Koga	500.41128X00	6837

20457 7590 08/01/2003

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EXAMINER

HARRIS, CHANDA L

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3714

DATE MAILED: 08/01/2003

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/059,426

Applicant(s)

KOGA ET AL.

Examiner

Chanda L. Harris

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 31 January 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 31 January 2002 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.  
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:  
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).  
\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).  
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

## Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) \_\_\_\_\_ 6) ☐ Other:

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Specification***

The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities:

- "S13008" should be "13008". See page 11, line 6 of the specification.
- "S17010" should be "17010". See page 17, line 10 of the specification.

Appropriate correction is required.

### ***Claim Objections***

1. Claim 1 is objected to because of the following informalities:

- Line 11: "leaning" should be "learning".
- Line 13: "sever" should be "server".
- Lines 43,45: "judgement" should be "judgment".
- Line 44: "meas" should be "means".

Appropriate correction is required.

2. Claim 5 is objected to because of the following informalities: Line 15: "inquiries" should be "inquires". Appropriate correction is required.

3. Claim 6 is objected to because of the following informalities: Line 6: "for" follow operation table. Appropriate correction is required.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

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The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claim 1 recites the limitation "the meaning of the resource operation request" in Lines 16-17. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101***

35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

Claim 8 is rejected because no useful, concrete and tangible result is produced. A claim to a computer readable medium encoded with a computer executable program that can function with a computer to effect a practical application constitutes a useful, concrete and tangible result.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains: Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

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**Claims 1-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pellegrino et al. (US 6,149,441) in view of Anderson et al. (US 2002/0115052).**

1. [Claim 1]: Regarding Claim 1, Pellegrino discloses wherein said client (i.e. client computer) comprises resource operation transmission means (i.e. education system) and resource display means (i.e. Home Page via a liquid crystal display or cathode ray tube), said resource transmission means transmitting a request for a resource operation together with a learner ID for identifying a learner (e.g. student, support user, teacher, administrative user) using said client, to said learning management server (i.e. server computer); said learning management server comprises resource operation means (i.e. education system) for operating resources of said learning management server in accordance with the request by said client, resource reference means (i.e. Home Page) for notifying said client of the contents of the resources, and operation interpretation means (i.e. education system) for interpreting the meaning of the of the resource operation request sent to said resource operation means. See Col.6: 60-66 and Col.9: 21-33. Pellegrino discloses wherein said learning management server further comprises activity model data representative of a set of role names (e.g. teacher, student, support, and administrator) and a set of links (i.e. features) indicating behaviors between the role names (i.e. features of the system depending upon the 'type' ascribed to the user). See Col.10: 67-Col.11: 4. Means for storing a correspondence of each learner ID and resource (i.e. feature) relative to each role name and means for interpreting the request sent from said resource operation transmission means (i.e. educational system) as behaviors between the resources would have been inherent

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features of Pellegrino in light of Col.10: 67 – Col.11: 4. Pellegrino discloses wherein said resource operation means of said learning management server converts the request sent from said resource operation transmission means of said client into behavior descriptive data representative of behaviors between resources and learner IDs and inquires said operation interpretation means whether an operation corresponding to the behavior descriptive data is permitted and wherein said operation interpretation means checks whether there is a role name assigned to the learner ID and resource and being coincident with the contents of the activity model data to thereby judge whether the request is permitted, and returns judgment results to said resource operation means (i.e. system permitting access to certain features of the system depending on the 'type' ascribed to the user and identifying authorized and identifying authorized users). See Col.10: 67 – Col.11: 4. Pellegrino discloses if the judgment results indicate a permission, said resource operation means operates the resource, and said resource display means of said client receives resource operation results (e.g. Home page) from said resource operation means and displays the resource operation results. See Col.9: 29-33 and Col.10: 67-Col.11: 4.

Pellegrino does not disclose expressly a role table and an operation interpretation table. However, Anderson teaches tables to store information and associations between the tables on p.3, [0060]. Therefore, at the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to incorporate the aforementioned limitations into the method and system of Pellegrino, in light of the

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teaching of Anderson, in order to provide exemplary data structures for storing information and the relationships between information.

2. [Claim 2]: Regarding Claim 2, Pellegrino discloses wherein a plurality of activity model data sets is provided (i.e. features of the system depending upon the 'type' ascribed to the user), and said operation interpretation means notifies said resource operation means of a permission of a request operation if the behavior descriptive data representative of behavior between resources and learner IDs is coincident with any one of the activity model data sets. See Col.10:67-Col.11:4.

3. [Claim 3]: Regarding Claim 3, Pellegrino discloses wherein monitoring status display means (i.e. cathode ray tube or liquid crystal display) is connected to the network (i.e. intranet or Internet); said learning management server comprises an activity log (i.e. database) for storing behavior interpretation data (i.e. logon/logoff activity) including the behavior descriptive data of the request sent to said resource operation means (i.e. logon/logoff) and role name assignment (e.g. student, teacher) when there is a match with the activity model data, and said resource operation means writes the behavior interpretation data when the resource is operated (i.e. tracks logon/logoff activity); and said learning management server comprises learning status monitoring means (i.e. User Management capability), said learning status monitoring means making said monitoring status display means display the contents of the activity log (e.g. logon/logoff activity). See Col.6: 42-45, 60-66, Col.10: 67-Col.11:4, and Col.26:52-64.

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4. [Claim 4]: Regarding Claim 4, Pellegrino discloses wherein said learning management server comprises monitoring condition data (e.g. logon/logoff activity), said learning status monitoring means evaluates a condition in the monitoring condition data when activity log changes (e.g. logon/logoff activity), and if the evaluate dcondition is satisfied, notifies this fact to monitoring status display means , and said monitoring status display means displays an activity status (e.g. logon/logoff activity). See Col.26: 52-64.

5. [Claim 5]: Regarding Claim 5, Pellegrino discloses a plurality of resource operation specification data sets each including an operation pattern (i.e. features ascribed to a user), an interpretation method (inherent) and an operation method (inherent), and said resource operation means searches the resource operation specification data having the operation pattern matching the received request, executes the corresponding interpretation method to form behavior interpretation data (i.e. features ascribed to a user), inquires said operation interpretation means whether an operation corresponding to the behavior interpretation data is permitted, and if permitted, operates the resource by using the operation method written in the resource operation specification data (i.e. identifying authorized users and permitting access to certain features of the system depending upon the 'type' ascribed to the user). See Col.10: 67-Col.11: 4.

Pellegrino does not disclose expressly a resource management procedure table. However, Anderson teaches tables to store information and associations between the tables on p.3, [0060]. Therefore, at the time of the invention, it would have been

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obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to incorporate the aforementioned limitation into the method and system of Pellegrino, in light of the teaching of Anderson, in order to provide exemplary data structures for storing information and the relationships between information.

6. [Claim 6]: Regarding Claim 6, Pellegrino discloses storing a correspondence between each learner name (e.g. student, teacher) and storing a correspondence between an operation request (i.e. logging on to the educational system) and a behavior name (i.e. feature of the system); and means for determining an access privilege to resources of the learning management server in response to a client request (i.e. educational system). See Col.9: 29-33 and Col.10: 67-Col.11: 4.

Pellegrino does not disclose expressly a table for storing a correspondence between each learner name and a role and an operation table. However, Anderson teaches tables to store information and associations between the tables on p.3, [0060]. Therefore, at the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to incorporate the aforementioned limitations into the method and system of Pellegrino, in light of the teaching of Anderson, in order to provide exemplary data structures for storing information and the relationships between information.

7. [Claims 7-8]: Regarding Claims 7-8, Pellegrino discloses determining an access privilege to resources of the learning management server in response to a client request. See Col.10: 67-Col.11: 4. Pellegrino teaches a computer executable program (e.g. application program) for realizing the access privilege method according to claim 7. See Col.8: 9-12.

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Pellegrino does not disclose expressly preparing a table for storing a correspondence between each learner name and a role and an operation table. However, Anderson teaches tables to store information and associations between the tables on p.3, [0060]. Therefore, at the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to incorporate the aforementioned limitations into the method and system of Pellegrino, in light of the teaching of Anderson, in order to provide exemplary data structures for storing information and the relationships between information.

#### ***Citation of Pertinent Prior Art***

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

- Slider et al. (US 6,505,031)
  - teacher web pages
- Casey-Cholakis et al. (US 6,438,353)
  - administrator access
- Green et al. (US 6,449,598)
  - policy access
- Callahan (US 6,416,328)
  - authorized access
- Robinson et al. (US 2002/0177109)
  - access permissions

- Helmick et al. (US 6,470,171)
  - authorized users
- Bly et al. (US 5,008,853)
  - access to entry
- Lotvin et al. (US 5,907,831)
  - access for parent and child
- Mortimer et al. (US 6,091,930)
  - different types of system roles
- Kouba et al. (US 2002/0031752)
  - WORKER table
- Himmel et al. (US 2002/0119435)
  - table in a database identifying users

### ***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Chanda L. Harris whose telephone number is 703-308-8358. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 6:30am-4:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tom Hughes can be reached on 703-308-1806. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-872-9302 for regular communications and 703-872-9303 for After Final communications.

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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-1148.

*Chanda L. Harris*  
Chanda L. Harris  
Examiner  
Art Unit 3714

ch.  
July 26, 2003